

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 4, 7, 8, 12, 16 and 24 as follows and add new claim 25.

1. (Currently Amended) A method, ~~for administering conferencing resources in a communications system, the method comprising:~~

transmitting from a first terminal to a conference server a first message comprising a request for a resource capable of sustaining a conference call;

~~allocating by the server a network address identifying a resource capable of sustaining the conference call; and~~

receiving by the first terminal from the server transmitting from the server to the first terminal a second message comprising the network address identifying the ~~a~~ resource capable of sustaining the conference call which has been allocated to the server;

transmitting from the first terminal to at least one other terminal a third message comprising the network address; and

initiating connections from the first terminal and said other terminal to the network address to establish a conference call between the first terminal and said other terminal,

wherein the conferencing resources are administered in a communications system which includes a plurality of terminals and the conference server.

2 - 3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 31 wherein the transmitting the third message further comprises transmitting from the first terminal to at

least two other terminals the third message comprising the network address; and wherein the initiating step further comprises initiating connections from the first terminal and the said other terminals to the network address to establish the conference call between the first terminal and the said other terminals.

5. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein transmitting steps comprise transmitting SIP messages.

6. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 5 wherein in the transmitting from a first terminal to the server, the first message is an INVITE message.

7. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 5 wherein in the ~~transmitting-receiving~~ from the server ~~to the first terminal~~, the second message is a redirection message.

8. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 21, wherein in the transmitting from the first terminal to at least one other terminal, the third message is a REFER message.

9. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein in the allocating by the server, the network address is a uniform resource identifier.

10. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 9 wherein in the allocating by the server, the network address is a dynamically generated uniform resource identifier.

11. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 further comprising merging data transmitted to the network by each of the terminals that are parties to the conference call on establishment of the conference call by the resource.

12. (Currently Amended) A communications system comprising a plurality of terminals and a conference server, the communications system, for administering conferencing resources, the conference server comprising:

a receiver unit configured to receive from a first terminal a first message comprising a request for a resource capable of sustaining a conference call;

an allocation unit configured to allocate a network address identifying a resource capable of sustaining the conference call; and

a transmission unit configured to transmit to the first terminal a second message comprising the network address that identifies the resource capable of sustaining the conference call which has been allocated by the server,

wherein the first terminal is configured to transmit to at least one other terminal a third message comprising the network address; and

wherein the first terminal and said other terminal are configured to initiate connections to the network address to establish a conference call between the first terminal and said other terminal,

wherein the conference server administers conferencing resources in the-a communications system, wherein the communications systems includes a plurality of terminals.

13. (Original) A communications system comprising a conference server as claimed in claim 12, and a plurality of terminals including the first terminal.

14 - 15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) A communications system according to claim ~~15~~¹³ wherein the first terminal is configured to transmit to at least two other terminals the third message comprising the network address; and wherein the first terminal and the said other terminals are configured to initiate connections to the network address to establish a conference call between the first terminal and the said other terminals.

17. (Previously Presented) A communications system according to claim 13 wherein the messages are SIP messages.

18. (Original) A communications system according to claim 17 wherein the first message is an INVITE message.

19. (Previously Presented) A communications system according to claim 17 wherein the second message is a redirection message.

20. (Previously Presented) A communications system according to claim 17 wherein the third message is a REFER message.

21. (Previously Presented) A communications system according to claim 13 wherein the network address is a uniform resource identifier.

22. (Original) A communications system according to claim 21 wherein the network address is a dynamically generated uniform resource identifier.

23. (Previously Presented) A communications system according to claim 13 wherein the resource is configured to merge data transmitted to the network by each of the terminals that are parties to the conference call, on establishment of the conference call.

24. (Currently Amended) A communication system comprising a plurality of terminals and a conference server, for administering conferencing resources, the conference server the communications system comprising:

a receiving means for receiving from a first terminal a first message comprising a request for a resource capable of sustaining a conference call;

an allocation means for allocating a network address identifying a resource capable of sustaining the conference call; and

a transmitting means for transmitting to the first terminal a second message comprising the network address that identifies the resource capable of sustaining the conference call which has been allocated by the server

wherein the first terminal is configured to transmit to at least one other terminal a third message comprising the network address; and

wherein the first terminal and said other terminal are configured to initiate connections to the network address to establish a conference call between the first terminal and the other terminal,

wherein the conference server administers conferencing resources in a communications system, wherein the communications systems includes a plurality of terminals.

25. (New) A computer readable medium encoded with a computer code for performing a method when run on a computer, the method comprising:

transmitting from a first terminal to a conference server a first message comprising a request for a resource capable of sustaining a conference call;

receiving by the first terminal from the server a second message comprising the network address identifying a resource capable of sustaining the conference call which has been allocated to the server;

transmitting from the first terminal to at least one other terminal a third message comprising the network address; and

initiating connections from the first terminal and the said other terminal to the network address to establish a conference call between the first terminal and the said other terminal,

wherein the conferencing resources are administered in a communications system which includes a plurality of terminals and the conference server.